

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 Bartlett Train Derailment - Removal Polrep  
 Initial and Final Removal Polrep



US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



435604

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region V**

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
 Initial and Final  
 Bartlett Train Derailment

**Bartlett, IL**  
**Latitude: 42.0033830 Longitude: -88.2331580**

**To:**  
**From:** James Mitchell, OSC/Mike Beslow, OSC  
**Date:** 11/3/2011  
**Reporting Period:** 11/3/2011

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b> EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b> Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b> 11/3/2011	<b>Start Date:</b>	11/3/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Twenty car train derailment in Bartlett, IL. No hazardous materials spilled but hazardous materials cars were derailed.

**1.1.2 Site Description**

Site of train derailment is located just north of the intersection of Spaulding Road and Lambert Lane in Bartlett, IL, on the Canadian National (CN) railroad line near an intersection with a Metra Train line. Residential neighborhoods are located approximately 900 feet east of the Site and 750 feet southeast of the Site. Industrial facilities are located west and southwest of the site.

**1.1.2.1 Location**

1400 Spaulding Road, Bartlett, IL

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

A smoldering fire resulting from the burning of old, non-creosote treated railroad ties, large rolls of paper, and coal. Smoldering fire is giving off smoke which is blowing to the west, towards industrial facilities. Two cars overturned that contain the hazardous materials ferrous sulfate and caustic soda (sodium hydroxide). These hazardous materials cars have not spilled their contents and were uprighted and staged during the response.

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Fire is smoldering, giving off smoke. No hazardous materials released

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

At approximately 0506 on November 3, 2011, approximately 20 railroad cars derailed on the CN railroad tracks just north of the intersection of Spaulding Road and Lambert Lane in Bartlett, IL. Some of these cars and their contents started on fire. Specific items that were burning include old non-creosote treated railroad ties, large paper rolls, and coal. Two cars that derailed contained hazardous materials - ferrous sulfate and caustic soda (sodium hydroxide). The ferrous sulfate car flipped over during the derailment. The caustic soda car rolled but is currently standing upright. Both hazardous materials cars are intact.

U.S. EPA received a call at approximately 0630 and responded to the incident. Local firemen and hazmat teams are at the incident putting fire out. CN representatives are at the scene performing response actions to mitigate the derailed cars. U.S. EPA integrated with CN's Environmental staff and into the Unified Command at the Site.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

Local fire and hazmat teams (Elgin and Bartlett Fire Departments) were on the scene during the entire train derailment response providing fire suppression, EMS and decon support.

Police are on the scene providing security. Spaulding Road and part of Lambert Lane are closed down.

CN is spreading the contents out that are on fire and encapsulating the material with Triple F foam. They are also in the process of fixing the railroad tracks that caused the derailment. New railroad line sections were delivered and will be used to replace damaged railroad sections.

At approximately 2100, CN upright and moved the ferrous sulfate car and sodium hydroxide railcars with the use of Side Booms. The two derailed cars containing hazardous materials were staged in an open area next to railroad tracks. By November 6th, the contents of these two cars will be transferred to undamaged railroad cars that are in route from Stevens Point Wisconsin. The empty cars will then be deconned and broken up for scrap.

CN created soil berms and Vac trucks were standing by in case of a hazardous material release. U.S. EPA START contractors, Weston Solutions, Inc., performed air monitoring in the surrounding neighborhoods. The two residential neighborhoods near the site contained no readings above background for total particulate or organic vapors. Just west of the train derailment on Spaulding Road, there were smoke odors and total particulates ranged from 0.08 to 0.35 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, well below action levels. Organic vapor readings were at non-detect levels. Approximately 750 feet west on Spaulding Road, the total particulate levels were at background levels and organic vapor levels were at non-detect levels. No public protective action measures were recommended.

#### **2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

PRP is Canadian National (CN) railroad. They are on scene providing response activities.

#### **2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

Not Applicable

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

By Sunday, November 6th, CN will off-load hazardous materials (ferrous sulfate and caustic soda) into other intact railroad cars. The empty railroad cars will then be transferred to a railroad yard, deconned, and cut up for scrap. The other derailed railcars that did not contain hazardous materials will be cleaned and cut up for scrap. By the end of next week all railcars should be removed and the area restored.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

See Above.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

U.S.EPA has transitioned all air monitoring activities to CTEH, an environmental response contractor for CN. The railcars have been uprighted, stabilized, covered and placarded. No hazardous materials were released. U.S. EPA and START demobed from the site at 9:30 PM.

### 2.2.2 Issues

There is an Enbridge Pipeline that runs parallel to the railroad tracks where the hazardous materials will be staged near. Staff from Enbridge has marked the pipeline and CN will avoid placing will not stage cars near the pipeline or traverse over the pipeline when staging cars.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Canadian National (CN)  
Metra  
Salvation Army

#### Agencies

U.S. EPA  
IEPA  
IEMA  
Homeland Security

Bartlett Fire  
Elgin Fire  
Streamwood Fire  
Hanover Park Fire  
South Elgin Fire  
Rutland Dundee Fire  
Pingree Grove Fire  
West Chicago Fire  
Carpentersville Fire

Utilities

NICOR  
ComEd  
MWRD

Police

Bartlett  
Elgin  
Illinois State

**4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

**5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

**6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.